



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Name of Proposal: WATER CROSSING STRUCTURES (BRIDGES, CULVERTS, ETC)
GUIDELINES

**THE DNS IS BEING WITHDRAWN UNTIL GUIDELINES HAVE GONE THROUGH
ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDER REVIEW PROCESS IN AQUATIC HABITAT
GUIDELINE PROCESS. SEPA REVIEW WILL BE RE-ISSUED AT COMPLETION OF
THAT PROCESS.**

Description of Proposal:

This is a non-project proposal. State law requires fish passage and the protection of fishlife (RCW 77.57.030 and WAC 220-110-070, among others). The Water Crossing Design Guidelines were written to help the crossing owner and designer comply with these laws. They are recommendations on the design of water crossings for fish passage and habitat protection, to avoid or minimize impacts to fishlife. The Guidelines were written by the Dept of Fish and Wildlife, and others, and will be published through the Aquatic Habitat Guidelines program.

Water crossings are structures that allow roads to cross over rivers and streams, usually by means of bridges or culverts. This includes all roads from Interstate and State Highways, county and municipal roads, forest and farm roads, and vehicle access and driveways on public and private lands. Inappropriately designed bridges and culverts can prevent fish passage and deleteriously impact fish habitat, exacerbate flooding and cause streambank erosion. They can interfere with movement of water, stream sediments and wood in normal stream processes. In a successful suit filed by Washington Treaty Tribes against the State of Washington, inappropriately designed culverts were found to impact fishery resources and the State is required to replace barrier culverts using design recommendations like those found in these guidelines.

Most recent Draft of the guidelines is available on WDFW SEPA web site:

http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/sepa_comment_docs.html

Proponent:

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Location of Proposal: Statewide waters

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Environmental Document Being Withdrawn: Determination of Nonsignificance for WATER CROSSING STRUCTURES (BRIDGES, CULVERTS, ETC) GUIDELINES issued **December 6, 2011**

Responsible Official: Bob Zeigler

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, Regulatory Services Section

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If you have questions about this action, please contact:

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DATE OF ISSUE: December 20, 2011

SIGNATURE:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Zeigler".

SEPA Log Number: 11-093